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December 10, 2015

Louisiana Ethics Administration Program  
Post Office Box 4368  
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RE: Request for Advisory Opinion  
St. Martin Parish Government

Gentlemen:

This office is general counsel for the St. Martin Parish Government. In that capacity, we seek an advisory opinion relative to the following factual parameters:

- A. The St. Martin Parish Government, acting through its Parish Council, appoints members to its Planning & Zoning Commission. For several years, Herbert Thibodeaux has served as an appointed member of the Parish's Planning & Zoning Board. His term is not scheduled to expire for at least two (2) more years.
- B. In the October, 2015, primary election, Mr. Thibodeaux's son-in-law, Chris Tauzin, was elected to the St. Martin Parish Council. He will formally assume office on the second Monday of January in 2016.
- C. Although probably not relevant, members of the Planning & Zoning Commission serve without compensation. Furthermore, the position is part-time.
- D. Members of the Planning & Zoning Commission make decisions which are subject to review by the St. Martin Parish Council.

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Questions have surfaced as to whether the continued service of Mr. Thibodeaux on the Planning & Zoning Commission would offend the Code of Governmental Ethics.

On behalf of the St. Martin Parish Government, I have reviewed this matter and adopted the position that Mr. Thibodeaux may indeed continue to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission pursuant to the dictates of La.R.S. 42:1119( C), particularly noting that he has occupied this position for greater than one (1) year. Nonetheless, out of an abundance of caution, an advisory opinion is requested from the Louisiana Board of Ethics pursuant to La.R.S. 42:1134(E) and Chapter 6 of the Administrative Rules of the Board.

I would be happy to expound upon the factual parameters of this matter if needed.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Chester R. Cedars

CRC/pavs

cc: Guy Cormier